Dec. 8th 2023



Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

Well, here we are with Christmas just around the corner, and soon the end of another year. The world around us barely allows us to breath before they start pushing those "must have" Christmas gifts before we've even finished our Trick or Treat candy! If they would only stop and acknowledge the God of creation and give their lives to Him! Oh, what a day it will be when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord!! The infant child that was sent to be our sacrifice for sin, will one day take His rightful place in the universe and rule and reign forever.

It's also the time where we summarize what all has happened in our lives and the many blessings we have seen from the Lord.

As we reflect back and rehearse what God has allowed Steppin-Out Missions to be a part of, we are overwhelmed. We are humbled and honored; yet consider it a blessed privilege to participate in a ministry that is so clearly directed by the Lord. It's been a year of diversity for sure! I'm sure most of you reading this letter will remember right along with us many of these projects, but Let me just list them as the year went along.

 Jan/Feb - We were in Englewood, FL. assisting Calvary Baptist Church with major drywall repair and replacing their gym floor that was hit hard with water leakage. This church was our host camp along with hundreds of other volunteers with Samaritans Purse after Hurricane Ian swept through.

- February Major service work on equipment and tools. Attended the BGEA Sharing Hope Conference in Orlando, FL.
- March Began assisting SkyView Ranch with the rough-in framing of cabins.
- April Disaster Response in Amory, MS after a devastating tornado ripped through this rural area.
- May Back to SkyView Ranch to renovate and rebuild the Stilted Cabins.
- June Camp Barakel build the new log pavilion (100'x40') for outdoor mtgs.
- July Trip to Koyuk, AK where we were one of several Samaritans Purse teams working to complete a new church for this community.
- August Began the project of renovating & remodeling a 100 yr old Church building in Beach City, OH that will become the new home of Reformation Bible Church.
- September Disaster Response trip to Perry, FL. Major clean up and debris removal after Hurricane Idalia swept through.
- October Continued work in Beach City for RBC; window replacements, outside work, HVAC.
- November RBC project drywall, plumbing, electrical and structural work.
- December Finishing touches & final push for RBC as they anticipate having their first service on Christmas Eve. Lots of painting, staining, cleaning, carpet, etc.

To God alone be the Glory!! It's nothing we (Steppin Out Missions) have done. It's clearly what the Lord continues to do through this ministry and the <u>host of volunteers</u> that go with us on each assignment. He brings the opportunities to serve, He provides the means, the protection and then gives the blessings as we watch Him work. We've seen lives transformed through the Gospel, lives revived through the witness and care of removing debris from a home ravaged by a tornado. We've seen a heart go from cold & dark to one that rejoices in

his/her new found faith. Not to mention our own team members who come back home more encouraged, and ready to head right back out the door. As they listened and watched the Chaplains share Christ, many of them took opportunities to openly share their own faith and how the Gospel changed their lives.

As we hear reports from SkyView & Barakel, it's about the young lives attending camp that God breaks those chains of darkness and shines a new light of direction and purpose. Apart from Christ working in the lives of people, we are of no affect! Sure, we can replace a roof, remove a downed tree, hammer a few nails, and remodel a church; but if Christ is not there and the Gospel is not presented, then we have failed, there is no eternal value. It's just wasted energy and time. This is what keeps us going - To watch God at work and know that He is present. What affirmation and blessing!!

But Wait! That's not all \odot - Back in March we received a plea from Jacques in Golikro, Ivory Coast West Africa asking for sponsors for new Bible School students. We in turn put out that plea to all our supporters and you answered with the resounding support and sponsorship of 23 student/pastors for the next 2 years! Through your support, Jacques was able to purchase study materials, study Bibles and food for the students while they attend school in Golikro. The influence of a false gospel has been so wide spread throughout West Africa, but the training they have received strengthens them to lead their congregations in Truth. Praise Him!!



It's incredible isn't it; that the God of the universe allows us (you/me) to share in His great plan? What do you suppose the coming year will look like? More storms? Darker news? Evil gaining territory? Perhaps this new year will be the year that a loved one will accept Christ as Savior? Maybe a wayward child/loved one will return? It could be the year of our Lord's return? Whatever 2024 brings us, let us be found faithful and willing to serve Christ. May our eyes be open to opportunities to share the only Hope, which is Christ in us. May we stay faithful to our churches, praying for our Pastors and leaders. You have our pledge that as long as God gives us breath, we will serve the Lord! It's a privilege to represent each one of you and our supporting churches on each and every assignment that the Lord directs us to do. It's equally a privilege & joy to have so many of you travel with us and share in those assignments. Your prayers and gifts of support are appreciated more than we can convey. That's how God continues to confirm the ministry of Steppin Out Missions. Thank you!!

We pray your Christmas is full of Joy!!

John & Shirley



Joel & Megan

Steppin Out Missions

P.O. Box 532 Sugarcreek, OH 44681

www.somissions.com

Rev. 7:9-10 "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"